

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for selectively generating automatic notifications that a user is away, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an email message at an email address of the user, determining whether an email address of a sender of the email message is an email address in a set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses comprises ~~comprising~~ email addresses of recipients to which email messages have been previously sent within a configurable time period that is uniquely associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses and a date associated with each email address is ~~in~~ the set of determined email addresses is stored in a data structure, and wherein the date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is a date an email message was sent to the associated email address from the email address of the user;

responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is an email address in the set of determined email addresses, sending an away notification to the email address of the sender; ~~and~~

responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is not an email address in the ~~set~~ set of determined email addresses, not sending ~~an~~ the away notification to the email address of the sender;

determining whether the date associated with the email address in the set of determined email addresses is within the configurable time period that is uniquely associated with the email address;

responsive to a determination that the date is within the configurable time period, retaining the email address in the set of determined email addresses; and

responsive to a determination that the date is not within the configurable time period, removing the email address from the set of determined email addresses.

2.-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
responsive to sending an outgoing email message at the email address of the user,
identifying a first recipient email address; and
determining whether the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is not located in the set of determined email addresses, storing the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.
17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining whether additional recipient email addresses are present in the outgoing email message; and
responsive to the determination that additional recipient email addresses are present, determining whether the additional recipient email addresses are located in the set of determined email addresses.
18. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses, updating the date associated with the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.
19. (New) A data processing system for selectively generating automatic notifications that a user is away, the data processing system comprising:
a bus;
a storage device connected to the bus, wherein computer usable code is located in the storage device;
a communication unit connected to the bus;
a processing unit connected to the bus, wherein the processing unit executes the computer usable code to, responsive to receiving an email message at an email address of the user,

determine whether an email address of a sender of the email message is an email address in a set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses comprises email addresses of recipients to which email messages have been previously sent within a configurable time period that is uniquely associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses and a date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is stored in a data structure, and wherein the date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is a date an email message was sent to the associated email address from the email address of the user; responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is an email address in the set of determined email addresses, send an away notification to the email address of the sender; responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is not an email address in the set of determined email addresses, not send the away notification to the email address of the sender; determine whether the date associated with the email address in the set of determined email addresses is within the configurable time period that is uniquely associated with the email address; responsive to a determination that the date is within the configurable time period, retain the email address in the set of determined email addresses; and responsive to a determination that the date is not within the configurable time period, remove the email address from the set of determined email addresses.

20. (New) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the processing unit further executes the computer usable code to:

responsive to sending an outgoing email message at the email address of the user, identify a first recipient email address; and

determine whether the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses.

21. (New) The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit further executes the computer usable code to:

responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is not located in the set of determined email addresses, store the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.

22. (New) The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the processing unit further executes the computer usable code to:

determine whether additional recipient email addresses are present in the outgoing email message; and

responsive to the determination that additional recipient email addresses are present, determine whether the additional recipient email addresses are located in the set of determined email addresses.

23. (New) The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit further executes the computer usable code to:

responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses, update the date associated with the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.

24. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer usable program code for selectively generating automatic notifications that a user is away, the computer program product further comprising:

computer usable program code for, responsive to receiving an email message at an email address of the user, determining whether an email address of a sender of the email message is an email address in a set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses comprises email addresses of recipients to which email messages have been previously sent within a configurable time period that is uniquely associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses, wherein the set of determined email addresses and a date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is stored in a data structure, and wherein the date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is a date an email message was sent to the associated email address from the email address of the user;

computer usable program code for, responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is an email address in the set of determined email addresses, sending an away notification to the email address of the sender;

computer usable program code for, responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is not an email address in the set of determined email addresses, not sending the away notification to the email address of the sender;

computer usable program code for determining whether the date associated with the email address in the set of determined email addresses is within the configurable time period that is uniquely associated with the email address;

computer usable program code for responsive to a determination that the date is within the configurable time period, retaining the email address in the set of determined email addresses; and

computer usable program code for responsive to a determination that the date is not within the configurable time period, removing the email address from the set of determined email addresses.

25. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

computer usable program code for, responsive to sending an outgoing email message at the email address of the user, identifying a first recipient email address; and

computer usable program code for determining whether the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses.

26. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

computer usable program code for, responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is not located in the set of determined email addresses, storing the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.

27. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising:

computer usable program code for determining whether additional recipient email addresses are present in the outgoing email message; and

computer usable program code for, responsive to the determination that additional recipient email addresses are present, determining whether the additional recipient email addresses are located in the set of determined email addresses.

28. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
computer usable program code for, responsive to a determination that the first recipient email address is located in the set of determined email addresses, updating the date associated with the first recipient email address in the set of determined email addresses.